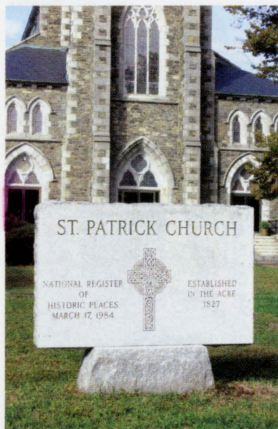


Oyster Shells, Rusty Nails and Rosary Beads

Irish 'Dig' Reveals Clues to Lives of 19th Century Canal Builders





Though the St. Patrick's parish was formed in 1827, the church wasn't officially consecrated until 1831.

“WHEN WE OPENED THE TRENCHES WE DIDN'T KNOW IF WE'D FIND ANYTHING, BUT IT BECAME CLEAR AFTER THE FIRST DAY THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE ABLE TO TELL A STORY OF WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1820 AND 1850.”

—COLM DONNELLY,
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

“The samples correspond to similar samples found in Northern Ireland in the same time period. We're fairly certain that we've discovered evidence of people living in the (church) lawn area, which was probably the earliest encampment for the canal diggers. A lot of things they're finding are precisely what we anticipated.

“We've been able to confirm that this is a site but not necessarily the only one. We hope the interest generated in this dig will spur another round of research.”

The idea, he said, is that over the next two years, this dig will be followed up by four more – one week-long dig each year in both Lowell and in County Tyrone, the latter being at the home site of Cumiskey, the immigrant who led the Irish laborers from Charlestown to Lowell nearly 190 years ago.

At week's end, the students filled the trenches back in. But first they spread plastic sheeting at the bottom to preserve the sites and placed plastic pegs at each corner to mark the dimensions of the excavations.

“If we get funding, we hope to come back next year and open the trenches again and continue to dig,” said Donnelly. “And we may extend the project. Open up other areas.”

The partnership between UMass Lowell and Queen's was formalized in 2009 when Chancellor Marty Meehan led a delegation to Ireland to meet with representatives of the Belfast university.

Speaking more recently about the project in The Acre, Meehan said, “Our priority with these Centers is to provide graduates with a global perspective, one that will contribute to their career success by deepening their understanding of multiple cultures, which, in today's shrinking world, is no longer optional but required.

“This archaeological dig is one of many concrete ways that students are already benefiting from our agreements with notable international universities.” ■



*Students Alaina Puleo
and Jonathan Brown*

UMASS LOWELL ALUMNI HAVE COME FROM MORE THAN 80 FOREIGN COUNTRIES

When he arrived here two years ago, Provost Ahmed Abdelal said one of his priorities would be to “internationalize” UMass Lowell. His efforts in this initiative have included the creation of six centers that provide students and faculty with opportunities to study and conduct research with academic partners in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and the Middle East.

But, from the standpoint of enrollment on the Lowell campus, the University has been “international” for a long time. This academic year alone, there are nearly 400 international students enrolled from 46 countries.

Moreover, the alumni rolls include more than 1,200 graduates from more than 80 foreign countries. India, with 419, is, by far, the country with the largest number of UMass Lowell degree holders. Next come Taiwan with 197 and Canada with 101.

UMass Lowell has prepared these graduates to return to their own countries armed with the knowledge and skills to enjoy successful careers and to be effective community leaders.

One example of a graduate who has returned home to raise the quality of life of her fellow citizens is **Salinee Tavaranan**, who in 2004 earned a master's degree in solar engineering. Tavaranan moved back to her native Thailand where she is director of the Border Green Energy Team, an organization that works with villagers in ethnic minority areas on both sides of the Thai/Burma border – improving solar home systems, teaching renewable energy practices and helping with solar electricity construction for medical clinics.

Yanir Shaked is an example of a graduate who has achieved success in both the corporate and academic worlds. Shaked, who earned his doctorate in plastics engineering in 2007, is director of research and development at Polyram Co., Israel's leading manufacturer of engineering thermoplastic compounds for the automotive, electrical and construction industries; and he also is a senior faculty member in plastics engineering at the Shenkar College of Engineering and Design.

Three others among the 1,200 graduates from foreign countries who have achieved success in their chosen fields are from Taiwan, Korea and India.

Edward Chang, who earned a master's degree in plastics engineering in 1992, is vice president of Simplo Technology, a Taiwanese company that produces a variety of battery pack products for customers such as Dell, Hewlett-Packard and Apple.

Jae Hyun Kim, who earned his master's degree in chemistry in 1999, is managing director of Dongjin Semichem Co. in Korea. Dongjin makes electronic materials and foaming agents for semiconductors and flat liquid crystal displays.

Nayan S. Parekh '94 is director of Nikamal Ltd. in India, a company that manufactures plastic moulding products. Parekh earned a master's degree in plastics engineering. ■

IN FOCUS

Globetrotting: UMass Lowell Partnerships Span the World



New ideas, heightened enthusiasm, cross-cultural experience – a campus with international programs and research is a more exciting place to be, for faculty as much as for students. That excitement is the foremost benefit of expanding partnerships. UMass Lowell also directs its partnerships to geographically strategic areas, where developed technologies, population density and existing universities offer the greatest potential benefits to both partners.

ASIA – RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA AND INDIA

UMass Lowell's Computer Sciences Department works in China with CERNET, the China Education and Research Network, to run a summer program for Chinese students leading to enrollment in the MS degree program at UMass Lowell. Strong ties exist with Tsinghua University in Beijing, supported by a UMass Online agreement and the China Institute established by the

UMass President's Office to coordinate university programs and state agencies.

UMass Lowell's focus of collaboration is on engineered nanoparticles and understanding the link between health, environment and manufacturing. With Tsinghua's related industry connections in China, a team of UMass Lowell professors (from work environment, biology, plastics and mechanical engineering) take exposure measurements, modify manufacturing processes, research nanocomposite properties and investigate toxicity. The researchers have also submitted a joint research proposal and have been invited to speak at a U.S. workshop on nanostructured materials for energy and the environment.

In India, UMass Lowell's renowned Assistive Technology program is being replicated at the B.V. Raju Institute of Technology in Hyderabad, and the Shri Vishnu Engineering College for Women in

Bhimavaram. UMass Lowell staff and graduate students support Indian students through visits and by distance communication. More than 50 projects are completed or ongoing.

MIDDLE EAST – CHALLENGE, OPPORTUNITY IN EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN AND TURKEY

University collaborations can contribute to better international communication and understanding, a goal that UMass Lowell fosters through the Middle East Center for Peace, Development and Culture.

In Egypt, UMass Lowell works with the University of Cairo to collaborate in Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology for graduate studies and research, and across departments of economics, political science and women's studies. At the High Institute of Applied Arts, UMass Lowell will host an exhibition of Contemporary Egyptian Digital Art in 2011 in the first phase of a multi-dimensional partnership.

A joint degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, scheduled to launch in 2011, has been developed by an inter-disciplinary faculty group with the University of Haifa, in Israel. The partnership was extended to include Queen's University in Northern Ireland to establish the Belfast-Haifa-Lowell Educational Research Group. The group held a summer summit for collaboration on improving public schools set in challenging environments. At Shenkar College of Engineering and Design, near Tel Aviv, an innovative joint graduate program in Plastics Engineering allows students in both UMass Lowell and Shenkar's Master of Science (M.S.) programs to attend classes and conduct research at both campuses.

In Jordan, science and engineering faculty are developing joint research projects with the University of Petra.

Collaborations with two universities in Istanbul, Turkey – Yeditepe University and Bahcesehir University – include a National Science Foundation-funded workshop on Assistive Technology, as well as summer joint M.B.A. electives and courses in engineering. At Bilkent University in Ankara, College of Management faculty members are teaching during the winter break, accompanied by UMass Lowell students. Joint research is planned in the areas of nanotechnology, biotechnology, plastics and biomedical engineering.

AFRICA – ADVANCING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN GHANA, NIGERIA

In the first of planned faculty and student exchanges, a UMass Lowell professor taught a semester of biology at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. Faculty in engineering and nanotechnology are building research collaborations with the University of Ilorin, in Nigeria.

IRELAND – HERITAGE TIES THE UNITED STATES, NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND

Archeological research (described on Page 23) was conducted in Massachusetts and Ireland by students and faculty of UMass Lowell and Queen's University in Belfast. Other programs include a partnership between Dublin City University, UMass Lowell and Queen's University in presenting the first U.S./Ireland Emerging Technologies Conference, in Lowell, at which researchers discussed biopharmaceuticals, medical devices and nanotechnology with representatives of leading companies in manufacturing and product development. The second conference will be held in Ireland in 2011. ■